ployers; what action was taken by the police on FIR?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) According to available information, RPFC, UP has filed complaints under section 406/409 IPC with the police authorities. He has also issued show cause notices for prosecution under section 14 of the EPF Act. Meanwhile, the management is reported to have started depositing the dues gradually.

Pension Scheme for Journalists

477. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far by the experts group set up by the Government to draw up a scheme for pension for Journalists, how many meetings the Group held so far; and

(b) whether the working group is likely to submit its report by the end of March; what steps Govt. are taking to ensure that report is submitted within this period, what are the reasons for delay so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) The Working Group had three meetings so far.

(b) The Chairman of the Working Group was earlier requested to expedite the work of the Group and to arrange for submission of its report by February, 1989. However, the Group is likely to take some more time to finalise its report.

Starvation Deaths in Bolangir Region of Orissa

478. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'the Hindustan Times' of the 4th February, 1989 to the effect that several deaths have taken place due to hunger in the drought-striken Bolangir region of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been mass exodus from Bolangir as a result thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the Government of Orissa there has been no death due to hunger in the Bolangir district of the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government of Orissa have taken up labour intensive works and emergency feeding programmes in areas including the Bolangir distinct where crop failure has been reported during the 1988 South-West Monsoon.

Silica Sand at Faridabad

479. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mining concessions for extraction of silica sand in Faridabad district was awarded to a Government agency in April, 1985;

(b) whether Government are aware that this concession has been trans-